

NOTES ON THE NYMPHALID BUTTERFLY.**Hypolimnias Bolina Nerina, Fabr.**

By R. Illidge.

On the 17th March, 1918, I captured a specimen of this butterfly in my garden at Bulimba, which differs so greatly in colouration from any I had previously seen that at first glance whilst on the wing I took it to be a male with the round white discal spots entirely obscured. I also took another varietal form in March, 1916, and yet another in April of the succeeding year, both at Bulimba. For descriptive purposes I thought varietal names might prove useful, which together with figures on the plate, would enable any other collector obtaining similar specimens to identify them.

The first I have called var. *imperialis* from its general dark imperial purple colour, the other two *formosa*, as expressive of their richly beautiful appearance.

Imperialis corresponds except as regards colour with indicator C.—. in Waterhouse & Lyell's Butterflies of Australia; the orange dorsal patch in forewing is absent, likewise the central patch of blue in hind wing, which is replaced by a very faint tinge of silky green. Its predominating colour is dark silky purple with a coppery tinge near base and along dorsum to near tornus. The under surface agrees fairly well with the general description given in that work, but the discal bands of forewing are almost absent, and on hind-wing quite obsolete.

In var. *formosa* the middle specimen on the plate is of a general purplish black, with faint iridescent discal blue patch and small orange dorsal spot. The lower specimen has discal patch more extensive, and tawny orange dorsal patch much larger. The hind wings of the middle figure in plate have the central patch of iridescent blue rather small, whereas in the lower figure it is very much more extensive, much paler, and along the nervures paler still.

*For convenience in describing these forms in my notes, I have given them varietal names, as indicated, but

*The Butterflies of Aust. Waterhouse and Lyell. "We have intergrades between these variations, so do not regard them as sufficiently constant to warrant their being named as forms of *nerina*."

they must be considered provisional only, for the insect is subject to extreme variation in colour.

† The range of the sub-species is from Moruya, south of Sydney, to Darwin, in N. Territory. It is the largest and finest of the race.



Dimensions—plate, 66mm.; natural, 110mm.; up. fig.

Dimensions—plate, 64mm.; natural, 108mm.; mid. fig.

Dimensions—plate, 66mm.; natural, 110mm.; bottom fig.

Measurements, from centre of thorax to apex of wing, x 2.

The late Dr. Lucas brought a fine collection from Fiji, collected there by himself. They were all of brownish black, with white markings, more or less extensive. I have seen and had specimens somewhat similar from Brisbane.

Of other forms of *H. Bolina* I have had specimens from India, New Guinea, etc., and they do not compare with ours in brilliancy of colour.

‡Again Mr. Waterhouse sent me specimens obtained in Samoa. These were about the size of the figures shown on plate, which are reduced to about half the natural.

The insect has also been reported from New Zealand, and was figured in *Trans., N.Z. Inst.* under *Diadema nerina*, but has not been seen, so far as can be learnt, since.

Around Brisbane three distinct species of *Hypolimnas* have been found, viz.: *H. bolina nerina*; *H. alimena lamina*; *H. misippus*, Linn. Of these the first is usually very common, and in favourable seasons odd specimens are found throughout the year; the second and third are of great rarity, and after very many years' collecting, can remember but few captured, viz.: *lamina* in my own garden and odd *misippus*, usually worn at several localities near Brisbane, the male being somewhat like *nerina*, perhaps overlooked, especially if worn.

The food plant is *Sida*, species of *Malvaceae*. It has taken largely to the introduced *sida retusa*, and also feeds on other malvaceous plants. The larvae usually shelter during the day, though sometimes crawling over the ground amongst the *sida*. Pupa suspended by tail commonly on the lower rails of old fences, etc., which are protected by weeds.

‡*Rhopalocera* of South Qld. Notes on Seasonal Forms, etc. *Qld. Naturalist*, Vol. II.; No. 3, p. 86. R. Illidge.